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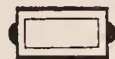
ON THE

Sanitary and Housing Conditions

OF THE

Kirkham Urban District

For the Year 1938.



WALTER HADDOW, M.B.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

KIRKHAM:

PRINTED BY J. RIGBY, POULTON STREET.

1939.



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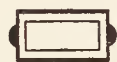
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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,

ON THE

Sanitary and Housing Conditions

OF THE

Kirkham Urban District,

FOR THE YEAR 1938.



*To the Chairman and Members of the Kirkham
Urban District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you for your consideration my Eighth Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Administration of the Kirkham Urban District, for the year ended 31st December, 1938.

The statistics with regard to the number of births and deaths have again been supplied by the Registrar-General through the County Public Health Department. The Births and Deaths referred to in this report are those registered during the calendar year, corrected for inward and outward transfers.

AREA.—The Area of the Kirkham Urban District is 940 statute acres.

POPULATION.—The population of the Kirkham Urban District for the year 1938, for the purposes of statistics is 4,139. The population (Census 1921) was 3,892. The 1931 Census gave the population as 4,031.

The number of inhabited houses (Census 1931) was 1,064, and 1,192 at the end of 1938 according to the rate books. These figures were 1,194 in 1937, 1,180 in 1936, 1,168 in 1935, 1,010 in 1934, 1,092 in 1933, 1,081 in 1932, 1,069 in 1931, 1,069 in 1930, 1,059 in 1929 and 1,040 in 1928. The number (Census 1921) was 877.

The number of families or separate occupiers (Census 1931) was 1,078 as compared with 911 in the 1921 Census.

The RATEABLE VALUE of the District was £18,943, and the sum represented by a penny rate £71.

The district is mainly an industrial one the chief occupation being cotton weaving and cotton spinning, and the work in the mills appears to predispose to rheumatic and dyspeptic ailments principally.

Approximately 10% of the insurable population were unemployed. From my own observations continued unemployment and consequent worry affects the nervous stability of some. Others on the contrary have been benefited physically by absence from the mills where conditions are not favourable to robust health. In a few the physique is below the average through lack of sufficient suitable nourishment.

VITAL STATISTICS.

TABLE 1.

| | | Total | M. | F. |
|-------------|------------------|-------|----|----|
| Live Births | Legitimate ... | 52 | 29 | 23 |
| | Illegitimate ... | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| | Total ... | 55 | 31 | 24 |

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 13·2.

Still Births ... 3 2 1

Rate per 1,000 Total (live and stillbirths) Births, 51.

Deaths ... 50 33 17

Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 12·0.*

Deaths from puerperal causes :—

From puerperal sepsis ... 0. From other puerperal causes ... 0.

Death-rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births ... 54

Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births 57

Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births Nil

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ... 6

Deaths from Measles (all ages) ... 0

„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages) ... 0

„ „ Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age) ... 1

* A Comparability factor 1·03 is used by which the crude death rate of the area should be multiplied in order to make it comparable, from a mortality point of view, with the crude death rate of the country as a whole or with the mortality of any other local area similarly modified.

TABLE 2.

| POPULATION 4,139. | | Per 1,000 of ESTIMATED POPULATION. | | | | Per 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS. | |
|-----------------------------------|-----|------------------------------------|-------------|---|-------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| Mean of 5 years. | | Live Birth-rate. | Death rate. | Death-rate from Tuberculosis of Respiratory System. | Death-rate from Cancer. | Maternal Mortality Rate. | Rate of Deaths under 1 year. |
| 1933—1937 | ... | 16·0 | 14·7 | 0·43 | 1·58 | Nil | 78 |
| 1937 | ... | 13·4 | 18·2 | 0·23 | 2·39 | Nil | 107 |
| 1938 | ... | 13·2 | 12·0 | 0·48 | 1·44 | Nil | 54 |
| Increase or Decrease in 1938 on:— | | | | | | | |
| 5 years' average, | | | | | | | |
| 1933—1937 | ... | — 2·8 | — 2·7 | + 0·05 | — 0·14 | Nil | — 24 |
| Previous year | ... | — 0·2 | — 6·2 | + 0·25 | — 0·95 | Nil | — 53 |

BIRTHS AND BIRTH-RATE—The Live Births reported by the Registrar-General as occurring in or belonging to the Urban District of Kirkham during the year ended 31st December, 1938, numbered 55 (males 31, females 24), or 1 less than in 1937. There were 3 illegitimate births (males 2, females 1). In addition to this 3 stillbirths occurred, 2 being males and 1 a female, all legitimate.

The birth-rate calculated on the population of 4,139 corresponded to 13·2, as compared with a rate of 13·4 in 1937; 17·0 in 1936; 16·1 in 1935; 17·1 in 1934; 16·6 in 1933; 14·4 in 1932; 20·8 in 1931; 13·4 in 1930; 14·6 in 1929; 15 in 1928; 18·8 in 1927; 18 in 1926; 19·5 in 1925; 19·4 in 1924; and an average of 16·0 per 1,000 per annum for the five years 1933-1937.

The provisional birth-rate for the whole of England and Wales for 1937 was 15·1 per 1,000.

DEATHS AND DEATH-RATE.—The number of deaths registered as belonging to the Kirkham Urban District during the year 1938 was 50 (males 33, females 17). These included 19 deaths of persons belonging to Kirkham who died outside the Urban District and excludes 1 who died in the Urban District but whose usual place of residence was elsewhere. In 1937 the nett deaths belonging to the district were 76; in 1936, 61; in 1935, 64; 1934, 53; 1933, 53; 1932, 53; 1931, 57; 1930, 56; 1929, 61; 1928, 49; and in 1927, 58.

The death-rate for the year under report, calculated on the estimated population, was 12·0 per 1,000, as compared with 18·2 in 1937, 14·4 in 1936, 15·4 in 1935, 12·9 in 1934, 12·9 in 1933, 12·9 in 1932, 13·8 in 1931, 13·5 in 1930, 14·6 in 1929, and 14·7 for the mean of the 5 years 1933-1937. The provisional death-rate for the whole

of England and Wales for 1938 was 11·6 per 1,000 population. Using the modified death-rate the figure of 12·36 is the comparable rate for the Urban District.

The tabulated statement which follows, supplied by the Registrar-General, analyses the causes of deaths, distinguishing males and females :—

TABLE 3.

| CAUSES OF DEATH | Males | Females |
|--|-------|---------|
| All Causes (Civilians only) | 33 | 17 |
| Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers .. | .. | .. |
| Measles | .. | .. |
| Scarlet Fever | .. | .. |
| Whooping Cough | .. | .. |
| Diphtheria | 1 | .. |
| Influenza | 1 | .. |
| Encephalitis lethargica | .. | .. |
| Cerebro-spinal Fever | .. | 1 |
| Tuberculosis of respiratory system.. | .. | 2 |
| Other Tuberculous Diseases | .. | .. |
| Syphilis | .. | .. |
| General paralysis of the insane, tabes dorsalis | 1 | .. |
| Cancer, Malignant Disease | 5 | 1 |
| Diabetes | .. | .. |
| Cerebral hæmorrhage, &c. | 4 | .. |
| Heart Disease | 3 | 2 |
| Aneurysm | .. | .. |
| Other circulatory diseases | .. | .. |
| Bronchitis | 1 | 2 |
| Pneumonia (all forms) | 1 | .. |
| Other Respiratory Diseases | 2 | 2 |
| Peptic ulcer | 1 | .. |
| Diarrhœa, etc. (under 2 years) | 1 | .. |
| Appendicitis | .. | .. |
| Cirrhosis of Liver | .. | .. |
| Other diseases of liver, etc. | .. | 1 |
| Other digestive diseases | 3 | .. |
| Acute and chronic nephritis | 3 | 1 |
| Puerperal sepsis | — | .. |
| Other puerperal causes | — | .. |
| Congenital debility and malforma- tion, premature birth | 1 | 1 |
| Senility | 3 | 3 |
| Suicide | .. | 1 |
| Other deaths from violence | 2 | .. |
| Other Defined Diseases | .. | .. |
| Causes ill-defined or unknown | .. | .. |
| Special Causes (included in No. 35 above):— | | |
| Small-pox | .. | .. |
| Poliomyelitis | .. | .. |
| Polioencephalitis | .. | .. |
| Deaths of infants under 1 year, total | 2 | 1 |
| Legitimate | 2 | 1 |
| Illegitimate | .. | .. |
| Live Births, Total | 31 | 24 |
| Legitimate | 29 | 23 |
| Illegitimate | 2 | 1 |
| Still Births, Total | 2 | 1 |
| Legitimate | 2 | 1 |
| Illegitimate | .. | .. |

Population—4,139.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

The preceding table shows the number of deaths attributed to the principal diseases.

PHTHISIS.—2 deaths were registered as due to Tuberculosis of the Respiratory system, corresponding to a death-rate of 0·48 per 1,000. In 1937 the figure was 0·23; in 1936, 0·23; in 1935, 0·48; in 1934, 0·48; in 1933, 0·73; in 1932, 0·24; and in 1931 and 1930, 0·72. The mean for the five years 1933-1937 was 0·43 per 1,000.

BRONCHITIS AND INFLUENZA.—Bronchitis was the cause of 3 deaths and Influenza 1. In 1937 the figures were 2 and 3; in 1936, 1 and 0; in 1935, 6 and 2; in 1934, 4 and 2; in 1933, 3 and 3; in 1932, 3 and 0; in 1931, 1 and 3; in 1930, 1 and 0; in 1929, 1 and 1; and in 1928, 1 and 1.

PNEUMONIA.—1 death was registered as due to this disease. This was 3 less than in 1937, 5 less than in 1936, 2 less than in 1935, 1 less than in 1934, 2 less than in 1933, 5 less than in 1932, 3 less than in 1931, and 4 less than in 1930.

CANCER.—6 deaths were due to this disease. In 1937 the number was 10; in 1936, 9; in 1935, 7; in 1934, 3; in 1933, 4; in 1932, 1; in 1931, 4; and in 1930, 5.

HEART DISEASE.—This accounted for 5 deaths, being 14 less than in 1937, 8 less than in 1936, 7 less than in 1935, 1 more than in 1934, 7 less than in 1933 and 1932, 11 less than in 1931, and 2 less than in 1930.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.—The deaths of children under 1 year of age numbered 3 (males 2, females 1) which figure was 3 less than in 1937, 4 less than in 1936, the same as in 1935 and 1934, 1 less than in 1933, 2 more than in 1932, 1 less than in 1931, and 2 less than in 1930.

Local records show only 2 deaths of infants under 1 year of age. These are shown below :—

| SEX. | AGE. | CAUSE OF DEATH. |
|------------|------------------|------------------------------|
| M. ... | 5 hours ... | Prematurity. |
| M. ... | 5 months ... | Convulsions due to enteritis |

The infantile death-rate, calculated per 1,000 registered births, corresponded to 54 as compared with 107 in 1937, 97 in 1936, 44 in 1935, 85 in 1934, 58 in 1933, 16 in 1932, 46 in 1931, 107 in 1930, 65 in 1929, and 64 in 1928. This figure is 24 less than the mean of the five years 1933-1937.

The infantile death-rate for the whole of England and Wales was 53 per 1,000 registered births for the year under review.

Table No. 2 at the beginning of this report compares the birth-rate and death-rate in 1938 with the previous year and the mean for the five years 1933-1937.

There has been no excessive mortality during the year requiring comment.

There has been no noteworthy cause of sickness or invalidity in the Urban District during the year and the number of infectious diseases has been comparatively small.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

There are no hospitals in the district, but advantage is taken of those in the neighbourhood, *viz.*—

- (1) The Fylde Joint Hospital at Moss Side, near Lytham, for Infectious Diseases.
- (2) Preston, Fylde and Garstang Hospital at Elswick for Smallpox.
- (3) Elswick Sanatorium for cases of Tuberculosis.
- (4) Preston Royal Infirmary for serious accidents and surgical operations.

The Fylde Union Institution at Wesham, adjoining Kirkham, has also an Infirmary, and receives necessitous cases, and those of Maternity when required. The accommodation is very good, and is not only used by this district, but also by the Fylde Rural District, Blackpool, Fleetwood, Poulton, and Lytham-St. Annes.

The total number of inmates on 31st December, 1938, was 250 (115 males, 129 females and 6 children).

With regard to hospital administration, Committees are formed consisting of representatives from the various Councils of the area.

POOR-LAW INSTITUTIONS.—As mentioned above, use is made of the Fylde Union Institution at Derby Road, Wesham.

THE COTTAGE HOMES, in Moor Street, for destitute children from the Fylde District, consist of modern semi-detached houses, each of which is under the care of a foster-mother, supervised by a Superintendent and Matron. The total number of children on 31st December, 1938, was 77 (40 boys, and 37 girls).

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.—The Ambulance facilities for the district are very good.

(a) For Infectious cases: The Moss Side Isolation Hospital has a Motor Ambulance for conveyance of patients to the Hospital. The Elswick Sanatorium has also a Motor Ambulance for tuberculous patients.

(b) For Non-Infectious and Accident Cases: Private Ambulances may be hired from Preston or Blackpool or locally, for those who can afford to pay the cost. The provision of such service for necessitous cases is undertaken by the Council by arrangement with a private motor ambulance hirer.

The cost of hospital treatment for infectious diseases to the local authority for two recent years has been £313 for year ending 31st March, 1937, and £233/3/3 for year ending 31st March, 1938.

The construction of a cubicle block extension to the Fylde Joint Isolation Hospital is now almost completed, and should be open in the late summer of 1939.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.—A Maternity and Child Welfare Centre is provided by the County Council, and is situate in Station Road.

TUBERCULOSIS DISPENSARY.—Use is made of the Dispensary at Elswick Sanatorium. This is under the care of the Medical Officer of that Institution.

SCHOOL CLINIC.—The Medical Inspection of School Children is carried out in all Schools by the School Medical Officer acting under the County Council.

VENEREAL DISEASES CLINIC.—Treatment is given at the Preston Royal Infirmary, under a scheme of the County Council.

PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME.

For nursing in the home there is the Kirkham and Wesham District Nursing Association. This is maintained by subscriptions from members of the Association, and employs one Nurse, who attends cases of illness, with the exception of infectious cases, in their homes in the districts of Kirkham and Wesham. No co-ordination exists with the local authority and no financial obligations fall upon the authority. Midwifery cases are not undertaken by the association.

LABORATORY WORK.

The examination of specimens for the detection of the Diphtheria and Typhoid organisms has been carried out at the Preston Royal Infirmary Laboratory.

Specimens of sputum are sent to Elswick Sanatorium for the detection of the Tubercle Bacillus.

During the year 1938, 9 specimens of sputum were sent to Elswick for examination, 5 of which were negative. 15 swabs for the detection of the Diphtheria bacillus and 2 for the Haemolytic Streptococcus were sent to the Preston Royal Infirmary Laboratory. In addition to this a number of swabs were taken in Moss Side Isolation Hospital from patients belonging to the Kirkham Urban District. 1 blood sample was examined for the enteric group, and 4 naso-pharyngeal swabs for the detection of cerebro-spinal fever.

THE ADMINISTRATION OF LOCAL ACTS OR GENERAL ADOPTIVE ACTS.

There have been no new local acts or adoption of any acts during the year.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

During the year there were notified 5 cases of Scarlet Fever, 5 of Diphtheria, 2 Cerebro-spinal Fever, 1 Pneumonia and 1 Puerperal Pyrexia.

A supply of anti-toxin is kept within the district at the surgery of the Medical Officer of Health and is supplied to medical practitioners when required.

No inoculation against diphtheria was carried out this year.

SCARLET FEVER.

Cases 5 Deaths 0

| <i>Month.</i> | | | | | <i>No. of Cases.</i> |
|---------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|----------------------|
| February | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| March | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| April | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| December | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |

All of these were removed to Moss Side Hospital.

DIPHTHERIA.

Cases 5 Deaths 1

| <i>Month.</i> | | | | | <i>No. of Cases.</i> |
|---------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|----------------------|
| February | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| March ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| April ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| September | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |

All received treatment in Moss Side Hospital, the case in February proving fatal.

CEREBRO-SPINAL FEVER.

Cases 2 Deaths 1

One of these cases was treated at Lancaster but terminated fatally. The other received treatment at Moss Side Hospital. She made a good recovery.

PNEUMONIA.

Cases 1 Deaths 1

There was only 1 case of pneumonia notified and this case recovered. The case which died had not been notified. Primary pneumonia alone is notifiable.

PUERPERAL PYREXIA.

Cases 1 Deaths 0

This case received treatment at home and made a satisfactory recovery.

VACCINATIONS.

Vaccinations are performed by the Medical Officer of Health in his capacity as Public Vaccinator.

SCHOOLS.

The medical inspection of school children under the Education Act is carried out in all Schools in the district by the School Medical Officer, acting under the County Council.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

The following table shows the number of cases of Infectious Diseases notified, number of deaths from these diseases, number of cases removed to hospital, and deaths in hospital during the year 1938.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) DURING
THE YEAR 1938.

| DISEASES. | CASES NOTIFIED. | | | | | | | | | | | | HOSPITAL | | | |
|---|--------------------------|--------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------------|--------------|---------------------------------|--|
| | Total Cases at all Ages. | Under 1 Year | 1-2 | 2-3 | 3-4 | 4-5 | 5-10 | 10-15 | 15-20 | 20-35 | 35-45 | 45-65 | 65 and over | Total Deaths | Total Cases removed to Hospital | Deaths in Hospital of Persons belonging to District. |
| Smallpox | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 2 | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 5 | .. |
| Scarlet Fever | 5 | .. | 1 | .. | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | 1 | 5 | .. |
| Diphtheria & Membranous Croup | 5 | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | 1 | 5 | 1 |
| Enteric Fever (incl. Paratyphoid) | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Acute Primary Pneumonia | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. |
| Acute Influenzal Pneumonia } | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Puerperal Fever | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Puerperal pyrexia | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Cerebro-Spinal Fever | 2 | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| Acute poliomyelitis | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Acute polio-encephalitis | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Encephalitis Lethargica | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Dysentery | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Ophthalmia Neonatorum | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Erysipelas | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Malaria contracted abroad | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| In this country | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Any other diseases notifiable in district, e.g.—Chicken-pox | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Measles and German Measles | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Whooping Cough | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Any other disease | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Totals..... | 14 | .. | 1 | .. | 3 | 3 | 1 | 1 | .. | 3 | 2 | .. | .. | 3 | 12 | 2 |

TUBERCULOSIS.

Under the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations 5 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 3 cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified during the year.

Five cases received Sanatorium treatment as follows :—

2 at Elswick Sanatorium, and 1 each at High Carley Sanatorium, Wrightington Pulmonary Hospital, and East Lancs. Tuberculosis Colony.

TUBERCULOSIS.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1938.

| AGE PERIODS. | | | | NEW CASES. | | | | DEATHS. | | | |
|----------------|-----|-----|-----|------------|-----|---------------|-----|-----------|-----|---------------|-----|
| | | | | Pulmonary | | Non-Pulmonary | | Pulmonary | | Non-Pulmonary | |
| | | | | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. |
| Years. | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 0—1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 1—5 | ... | .. | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 5—10 | .. | ... | .. | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 10—15 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 15—20 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 20—25 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | .. | ... | .. | ... | ... | ... |
| 25—35 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | .. | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... |
| 35—45 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 45—55 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 55—65 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... |
| 65 and upwards | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | .. | ... |
| Totals | ... | | | 2 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | | 5 | | 3 | | 2 | | 0 | |

Both of the deaths from Tuberculosis were of cases who had previously been notified.

The notification of Tuberculosis in the district as a rule is good, and there has been no need to take action in cases of wilful neglect or refusal to notify.

There is no evidence of excessive incidence of, or mortality from Tuberculosis in any particular occupation in the district.

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925 :

There has been no action taken under these regulations relating to tuberculous employees in the milk trade.

No action was necessary under Section 62 of the Public Health Act, 1925.

The district is under the care of the Medical Officer of the Elswick Sanatorium. Every week, notifications of Tuberculosis (if any) are sent to the County Medical Officer. The Tuberculosis Officer visits each patient with the Medical Attendant, and, where necessary, domiciliary or sanatorium treatment is given. On the occasion of death or removal to a sanatorium, the dwellings are always disinfected.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

There have been no occurrences of this disease during the year.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS TO THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

Medical Officer of Health : WALTER HADDOW, M.B.

Part time. Also holds the appointments of M.O.H. Fylde Rural District, M.O. Fylde Joint Isolation Hospital, Public Vaccinator, and Factory Certifying Surgeon.

Sanitary Inspector : JAMES R. HOLMES.

Part time. Also holds the appointments of Surveyor and Building Inspector.

Maternal mortality is again nil. The birth-rate is practically the same as in the previous year, but is down on the average for the past five years. The death-rate from all causes is lower than for some years. That from cancer is also lower than the average for the past five years and the Infantile death-rate also shows a considerable fall from the previous year and the average of the five years 1933-1937. The tuberculosis death-rate is above that of the previous twelve months and very slightly higher than the mean of the previous five years. Deaths from pneumonia have shown a pronounced drop as also have those from heart disease.

Taken as a whole the report is a satisfactory one.

These remarks, Gentlemen, conclude my report,

Yours obediently,

W. HADDOW, M.B.

Kirkham Urban Sanitary Authority.

To the Chairman and Members of the Kirkham Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of presenting my Twenty-seventh Annual Report on the work done in the Sanitary Department during 1938.

During the year 56 notices and letters have been served with regard to the abatement of nuisances and the remedying of insanitary conditions, chief of which were defective privies, drains, backyards and houses.

SANITARY CONDITION OF THE DISTRICT.

PUBLIC CLEANSING :—Particulars of any extension or improvement during the year.

The scavenging of the whole of the District is carried out weekly by the Council's men and cart under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector, the ashbins being carried from the backyards and emptied direct into the cart.

Privies are being reduced in number due to conversion to water closets, and the demolition of insanitary property.

If a destructor is provided, state situation :—

A new destructor has been built adjoining and utilising the factory chimney at Selby Mill.

Average number of loads dealt with per week 24

| | | | | | During 1938. | | During 5 years 1933—1937. |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|--------------|-----|------------------------------|
| No. of Privy closets :— | | | | | | | |
| To fresh-water closets | ... | ... | | | 19 | ... | 96 |
| To pail closets | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | ... | — |
| No. of Pail closets :— | | | | | | | |
| To fresh-water closets | ... | ... | | | 10 | ... | — |
| To waste-water closets | ... | ... | | | — | ... | — |
| No. of Waste-water closets :— | | | | | | | |
| To fresh-water closets | ... | ... | | | — | ... | 4 |
| No. of houses at which movable ashbins have been substituted for fixed receptacles | ... | ... | | | 31 | ... | 135 |

Is there any definite policy at the present time for abolishing privy middens and pail closets? No.

Does the Council contribute towards the cost of conversion? No.

What kind of closet accommodation is being provided for new property? All fresh-water closets.

From June, 1912, to December 31st, 1938, 461 privies and 19 pail closets have been converted into fresh-water closets.

The whole of the cost of conversion has been borne by the property owners.

The following are the numbers of closets and ashpits :—

| | | | | |
|---------------------|-----|-----|-----|------|
| Fresh-water closets | ... | ... | ... | 1197 |
| Waste-water closets | ... | ... | ... | 21 |
| Pail closets | ... | ... | ... | — |
| Privy closets | ... | ... | ... | 25 |
| Privy ashpits | ... | ... | ... | 15 |
| Dry ashpits | ... | ... | ... | 10 |
| Ashbins .. | ... | ... | ... | 958 |

RIVERS AND STREAMS.—No rivers and streams pass through the district.

SEWERS AND SEWERAGE SYSTEM.—The Sewerage in conjunction with that from Wesham runs to sedimentation tanks at Newton and then into the river Ribble. The sewerage tanks are cleaned out three times a year.

NEW MAIN SEWERS AND EXTENSIONS.—Extensions have been made to existing sewers where building operations are in progress.

All the 8 houses built during 1938 were connected to the main sewer.

| | | | |
|---|-----|-----|------|
| No. of Houses connected direct to sewer | ... | ... | 1155 |
| „ „ „ to septic tanks | ... | ... | 34 |
| Estimated No. of Houses on the watercarriage system | | | 1158 |

WATER SUPPLY is good and ample, and is under the control of the Fylde Water Board.

The water mains have been flushed by the Fylde Water Board's workmen at different times.

All the houses in the town are supplied with Fylde water except two Bungalows which are supplied from a well.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND DISINFECTIONS.

| | | |
|--|--------|----|
| Number of cases notified of Scarlet Fever | ... | 4 |
| „ „ Diphtheria | | 4 |
| „ „ Cerebro-spinal | | |
| | Fever | 1 |
| „ „ Tuberculosis | ... | 7 |
| Number of disinfections after death or removal | | |
| of tuberculosis cases | | 3 |
| Number of Houses disinfected | | 21 |
| „ Schools | | 4 |
| „ Library and other books disinfected | | 61 |

All cases were visited upon receipt of notification. After the removal of patients for either hospital or sanatorium treatment the rooms were thoroughly disinfected with formalin. All cases that were treated at home were visited from time to time, disinfectants supplied, and instructions given for the proper isolation of patients to prevent the spread of the disease.

SCHOOLS.

The Schools are inspected regularly and found satisfactory.

All the Schools are supplied with Fylde Water, and have fresh-water closets connected direct to the sewer.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

1.—INSPECTIONS FOR PURPOSES OF PROVISIONS AS TO HEALTH, INCLUDING INSPECTIONS MADE BY SANITARY INSPECTOR.

| Premises. | Number of | | |
|--|-------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| | Inspections | Written Notices | Occupiers prosecuted |
| Factories with Mechanical power .. | 58 | 2 | .. |
| Factories without Mechanical power | 49 | .. | .. |
| Other premises under the Act (including Building and Engineering construction but not including out- workers' premises) | 1 | .. | .. |
| Total | 108 | 2 | .. |

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

| Particulars. (1) | Number of Defects | | | Number of Defects in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted (5) |
|--|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| | Found (2) | Remedied (3) | Referred to H.M. Inspector (4) | |
| Want of cleanliness (S.1) | 1 | 1 | .. | .. |
| Overcrowding (S.2) | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Unreasonable temperature (S.3) | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Inadequate ventilation (S.4) | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Sanitary conveniences (S.7):— | | | | |
| insufficient | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| unsuitable or defective | 1 | 1 | .. | .. |
| not separate for sexes | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Other Offences | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Total | 2 | 2 | .. | .. |

Number of Factory and Works chimneys in the District ... 7

Number of black smoke observations 10

Time limit allowed—Minutes per hour 6

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There is only one lodging house, with accommodation for 42 men and 33 women. The average number in is 16. It has been regularly inspected and well maintained. No cases of overcrowding or infectious disease have occurred here during the year.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

There are three Registered slaughterhouses, which have been regularly visited both during slaughtering operations and after. They are all provided with a good supply of water for cleaning purposes, and the buildings have been kept clean and limewashed. All the refuse is removed in galvanised bins with covers immediately after slaughtering.

Number of Licensed Slaughtermen 9

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

| | Cattle excluding cows | Cows | Calves | Sheep and Lambs | Pigs |
|---|-----------------------------|------|--------|-----------------------|------|
| Number Killed (if known) | ... | ... | .. | ... | ... |
| Number inspected | 2 | 274 | 6 | 774 | 51 |
| ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS. Whole carcasses condemned | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| TUBERCULOSIS ONLY. Whole carcasses condemned | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |

SHELLFISH (Molluscan).

Particulars of any shellfish beds, or layings which may be in the District.

None in District.

MILK SUPPLY.—Action taken with regard to milk including inspection of farms and dairies, the Administration of the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926, and the Milk (Special Designations) Orders, 1936 and 1938.

Under the Milk and Dairies Act, 1926, there are 10 Registered producers and retailers of milk, and 3 Registered retailers of milk only. 159 inspections have been made to these premises which have been kept in a clean sanitary condition.

All the Farms are supplied with Fylde Water.

| | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Number of Registered Cheese Factories | .. | ... | ... | 1 |
| „ Registered Cowkeepers, including Dairy Farms | ... | ... | ... | 10 |
| „ Milk Purveyors (other than Cowkeepers) | ... | ... | ... | 3 |
| „ Licences issued to Dealers in respect of Tuber- | | | | |
| culin Tested | ... | ... | ... | 3 |
| Approximate number of dairy cows in the district | ... | ... | ... | 167 |

Part of the Milk supply is brought in by farmers from the surrounding districts.

FOOD AND DRUGS (ADULTERATION) ACT, 1928.

During the year ending 31st December, 1938, the following samples were taken by the County Constabulary in the area of the Urban District :—

| Description of Articles | Number of Samples. |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Milk | 21 |
| Butter | 2 |
| Cheese | 2 |
| Lard | 1 |
| Jam | 1 |
| Tinned Milk | 1 |

A total of 28 samples.

On analysis by the County Analyst, all the samples were found to be genuine.

SHOPS AND OFFICES :—

Particulars of any action taken under the provisions of :—

- (a) Shops Act, 1934, relative to ventilation and temperature of shops and sanitary conveniences.

All shops inspected twice during the year. No action necessary.

- (b) Public Health Act, 1936, relating to conditions in Offices as to ventilation, sanitary conveniences etc.

CAMPING SITES :—

- (a) Number of sites in the area which were used for camping purposes during 1938 1

- (b) Number of camping sites in respect of which licences have been issued by Local Authority under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936 ... 1
- (c) Estimated maximum number of campers resident in the area at one time during the summer season 1938 34

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT. SANITARY INSPECTION.

| | | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Number of Premises visited | ... | .. | ... | ... | ... | 321 |
| „ Defects or Nuisances | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 68 |
| „ Preliminary Notices served by Inspector | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 56 |
| „ Statutory Notices served by Order of Council | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | — |
| „ Nuisances remedied | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 66 |
| „ New drains tested with smoke test... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 8 |
| „ Drains opened out and defects rectified | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 8 |
| „ New drains and gullies put into existing property | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 |
| „ Defective roofs and gutters repaired | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 15 |
| „ Houses repaired inside | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6 |
| „ Cobble-paved backyards concreted | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 11 |
| „ Ashbins provided in place of boxes | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 8 |

HOUSING.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

- (a) Total, including numbers given separately under (b) 8
- I. By the Local Authority None
- II. By other bodies or persons 8

(b) with State Assistance under the Housing Acts :—

- I. By the Local Authority None
- II. By other bodies or persons None

Number of houses on Rate Books 1192

1.—Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year :—

- 1.—(a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 55

(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose ... 116

| | |
|---|------|
| 2.—(a) Number of dwelling-houses included in above which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 ... | 12 |
| (b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose ... | 25 |
| 3.—Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation | 2 |
| 4.—Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reason- ably fit for human habitation | 19 |
| 2.—Remedy of defects during the year without service of Formal Notices :— | |
| Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in con- sequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers | None |
| 3.—Action under Statutory Powers during the year :— | |
| A.—PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTIONS 9, 10, AND 16 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1936 :— | |
| 1.—Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Not- ices were served requiring repairs | None |
| 2.—Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of Formal Notices :— | |
| (a) By owners | None |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... | None |
| B.—PROCEEDINGS UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS :— | |
| 1.—Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | 16 |
| 2.—Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of Formal Notices :— | |
| (a) By owners | 16 |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... | None |

C.—PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTIONS 11 AND 13 OF THE
HOUSING ACT, 1936 :—

- 1.—Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which
demolition orders were made None
- 2.—Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance
of demolition orders None

D.—PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTION 12 OF THE HOUSING
ACT, 1936 :—

- 1.—Number of separate tenements or underground
rooms in respect of which closing orders were
made None
- 2.—Number of separate tenements or underground
rooms in respect of which closing orders were
determined, the tenement or room having been
rendered fit None

HOUSING ACT, 1936 – PART IV.—OVERCROWDING :—

- (a)—1. Number of dwelling-houses overcrowded at the
end of the year 4
2. Number of families dwelling therein 4
3. Number of persons dwelling therein 29
- (b)— Number of new cases of overcrowding reported
during the year 1
- (c)—1. Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during
the year 4
2. Number of persons concerned in such cases 26
- (d)— Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses
have again become overcrowded after the
Local Authority have taken steps for the
abatement of overcrowding None
- (e)— Any other particulars with respect to overcrowd-
ing conditions upon which the Medical
Officer of Health may consider it desirable
to report.

The Council propose building more houses for tenants who will be displaced from the Clearance Areas, and to include in their Scheme sufficient houses for persons who are at present overcrowded and unable to obtain larger houses.

HOUSING CONDITIONS.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS AS TO HOUSING CONDITIONS :—

1.—The general housing conditions are good, mostly working class houses of both parlour and non-parlour type.

Approximate number of back-to-back houses in the district :—
None.

2.—SUFFICIENCY OF SUPPLY OF HOUSES :—(a) Extent of shortage

On the whole houses are reasonably rented, but for some of the poorer classes there is a shortage of low-rented houses of adequate size for large families.

(b) Particulars of any housing Scheme in hand or contemplated
Under the Slum Clearance the Council have built 34 houses which are occupied by displaced tenants. During 1939 more houses will be built to rehouse displaced tenants, and deal with overcrowding cases.

(c) Information as to any important changes in population anticipated in the future :—

There is no prospect of any important changes in population.

(d) Any special difficulties in the way of providing suitable sites for new houses :—

Suitable sites are available for new houses.

3.—FITNESS OF HOUSES :—

(a) Are there any difficulties found in action under the Public Health or Housing Acts?... .. None

(b) Special measures taken or suggested in relation to particular types of insanitary property, or in regard to arrangements for the gradual carrying out of programmes of repair :—

No Special measures taken, repairs up to now have been carried out to property without any inconvenience to the occupiers.

(c) Number of houses which have not an adequate
internal water supply None

(d) Number of houses which have no separate water-
closet or other adequate sanitary accommodation None

Public conveniences are provided by the Council.

4. Brief particulars of any Public or Privately owned Swimming Baths open to the Public and action taken to ensure the satisfactory condition of the water :—

The town is provided with Public Baths which were built in 1914, these baths are fitted with the latest modern Method for Filtration of the Water.

5. ERADICATION OF BED BUGS :—

Particulars of the action taken for the eradication of bed bugs including information as to :—

(1)—(a) I. The Number of Council houses found to be
infested None

II. The Number of houses disinfested ... None

(b) I. The Number of Other houses found to be
infested None

II. The Number of houses disinfested ... None

(2)—The methods employed for freeing infested houses
from bed bugs. Fumigation with hydrogen cyanide

(3)—The methods employed for ensuring that the belongings of tenants are free from vermin before removal to Council houses.

All belongings of tenants are placed in the London Fumigation Co's. van and fumigated with Zyklon. After treatment the goods are delivered to the new Council houses.

(4)—Whether the work of disinfestation is carried out by
the Local Authority, or by a Contractor.

By Contract with the London Fumigation Co.
Ltd.

(5)—The measures taken by way of supervision or education of the tenants to prevent infestation or re-infestation after cleansing.

By inspection of new houses often ; and the appreciation of the tenants for their new houses.

Action taken during the year regarding :—

CLEARANCE AREAS :—

Number of areas represented, None ; comprising, None houses.

Number of areas cleared, 2 ; comprising 14 houses.

Number of new houses built to rehouse displaced Tenants, None

Sufficient houses were built during 1937 to rehouse these tenants

IMPROVEMENT AREAS :—

Number of areas represented, None ; comprising None houses

,, houses demolished, None ; number of tenants displaced, None.

,, new houses built to rehouse displaced tenants, None

,, houses reconditioned 11

CHIEF SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS DURING THE YEAR :—

Conversion of 19 privies and 10 pail closets to fresh-water closets and the substitution of Galvanised ashbins for ashpits.

CHIEF SANITARY REQUIREMENTS :—

Conversion of remaining privies to fresh-water closets, and Demolition of property in clearance areas and new houses to rehouse displaced tenants.

I am, yours obediently,

JAMES R. HOLMES,

M.I.H., A.R.S.I., N.D.A.,

SANITARY INSPECTOR.

